

Don't lift the ownership rules

Commissioners,

I am writing to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I strongly urge the FCC to retain all of the current media ownership rules.

To my knowledge, the mandate that broadcasters serve the public interest is still in effect. I believe that this mandate is more important than ever, and has certainly not been invalidated by cable TV and the Internet. Lifting the minimal ownership rules that are still in place will undermine the public interest by severely limiting the scope of debate on matters of public policy and public concern. Such public debate is the cornerstone of our democratic system.

Because open debate on issues of public concern is already being compromised by the level of media consolidation that has already taken place, there has been virtually no public debate on this very issue of media ownership. Therefore I strongly urge the FCC to hold hearings in every state before coming to a decision on this extremely important question. The FCC must not assume that those who serve to make money through further media consolidation are also concerned with the public interest. As you well know, the opposite is true. Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,

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